

Sir Roger Moore 1927-2017

Farewell, 007!

He made his name playing a character who could manoeuvre his way out of all manner of dangerous situations, but Sir Roger Moore was sadly unable to evade the cancer that ultimately claimed his life.

Last week the celebrated actor, most beloved for his 12-year stint playing James Bond, succumbed to the disease at age 89 after a short battle.

It was a heartbreaking end to the life of a man who, although famous for his movie career, was most passionate about humanitarian work.

The UK actor was married four times, to ice skater Doorn Van Steyn, singer Dorothy Squires, actress Luisa Mattioli and Swedish socialite Kristina Tholstrup.

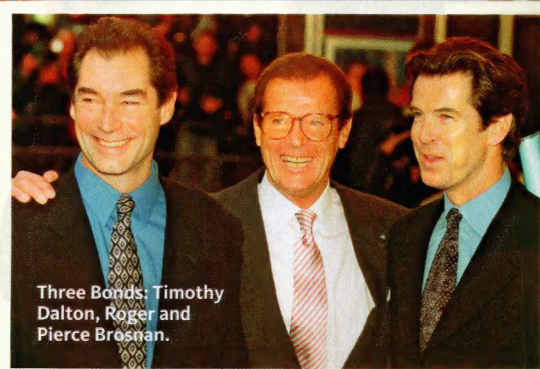
He had a long career in films and TV before the 1973 movie *Live And Let Die* made him a Bond legend. Six more hit films, including *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *Octopussy*, followed.

But while Roger's fame rose and his wallet got fatter – he netted \$24 million for his depiction of 007 – the shy actor became increasingly uncomfortable with life in the limelight.

"Timid me would rather stay home and have a sandwich," he once said of attending A-list events.

In 1991, inspired by his friend Audrey Hepburn, he became a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF and finally felt comfortable with his high public profile, as he could use it to help others.

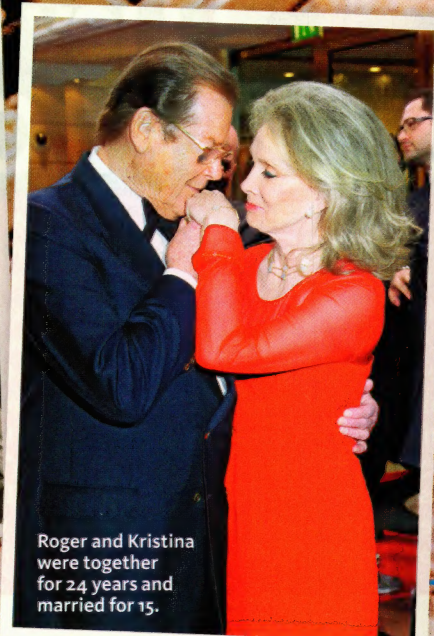
Former Bond Girl Jane Seymour was one of many celebrities who has paid tribute to the late actor. "He taught me about work ethic and humility," she wrote. "He was so funny, kind and thoughtful to everyone around him and in that Roger taught me what a movie star really was and should be."



Three Bonds: Timothy Dalton, Roger and Pierce Brosnan.



James with the Bond Girls from 1983's *Octopussy*.



Roger and Kristina were together for 24 years and married for 15.

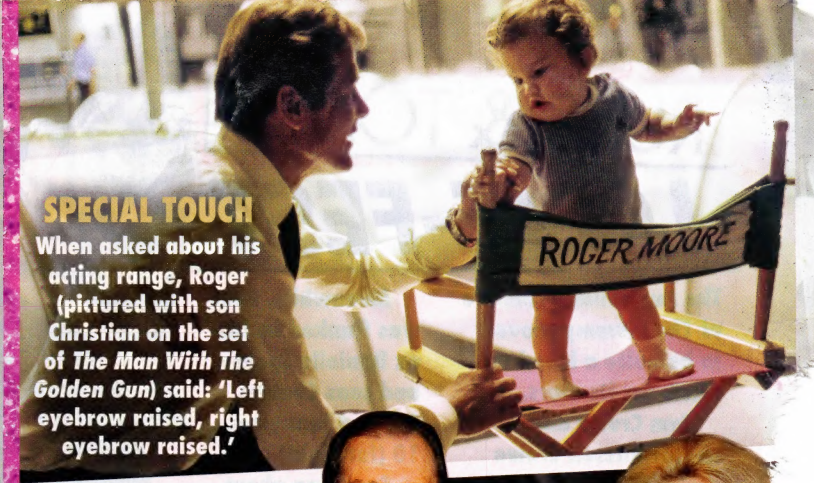
Star Watch



BOND, JAMES BOND
The suave actor played the British spy seven times in the '70s and '80s.

1927-2017

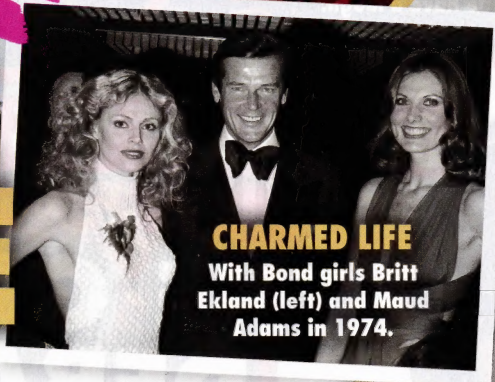
ROGER MOORE



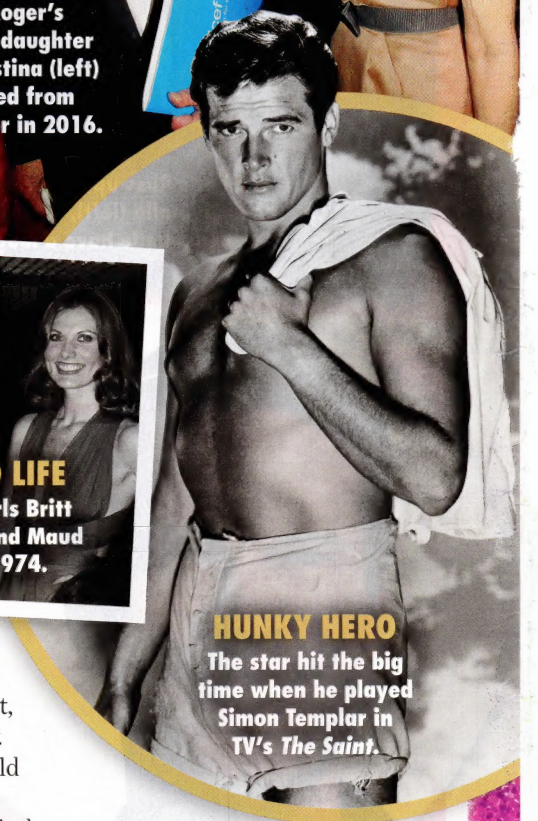
SPECIAL TOUCH
When asked about his acting range, Roger (pictured with son Christian on the set of *The Man With The Golden Gun*) said: 'Left eyebrow raised, right eyebrow raised.'



SAD TRAGEDY
Roger's stepdaughter Christina (left) died from cancer in 2016.



CHARMED LIFE
With Bond girls Britt Ekland (left) and Maud Adams in 1974.



HUNKY HERO
The star hit the big time when he played Simon Templar in TV's *The Saint*.

Movie fans were in mourning last week as one of the most popular James Bonds ever to grace the silver screen entered 00-heaven.

Sir Roger Moore passed away aged 89 at his home in Switzerland after a 'short but brave' battle with cancer. A statement from the

seven-time Bond star's family read: 'It is with a heavy heart that we must announce our loving father, Sir Roger Moore, has passed away... The love with which he was surrounded in his final days was so great it cannot be quantified in words alone.'

The modest, self-deprecating actor's portrayal of the British secret agent was far different from his predecessor and close

friend Sean Connery's.

'I mean, this man is supposed to be a spy and yet, everybody knows he's a spy. Every bartender in the world offers him martinis that are shaken, not stirred. What kind of serious spy is recognised everywhere he goes? It's outrageous. So you have to treat the humour outrageously as well,' he once quipped.

After three acrimonious divorces, Roger finally found happiness in 2002 with fourth wife Kristina Tholstrup, who was a friend of his third wife, Italian actress Luisa Mattioli.

The actor suffered heartbreak last year when his stepdaughter Christina Knudsen tragically succumbed to cancer aged just 47.

In his later years, Roger dedicated himself to his charity work with UNICEF, which he said was far more rewarding than acting.

His family wrote: 'We know our own love and admiration will be magnified many times over, across the world, by people who knew him for his films, his television shows and his passionate work for UNICEF, which he considered to be his greatest achievement.'

'Thank you Pops for being you, and for being so very special to so many people.'

NZ



FAMILY MAN
With wife Kristina and children Geoffrey (left), Deborah and Christian.

MOORE CLASS